

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03799 051520Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSC-01 /075 W
-----027034 051904Z /72

R 051450Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1057
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3799
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: TIPPED TO TAKE OVER EDUCATION MINISTRY

REF: KINGSTON 2697

1. PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY
GEORGE EATON TOLD ME YESTERDAY (MAY 3) THAT HIS PRESENT
MINISTER, HOWARD COOKE, WILL BECOME EDUCATION MINISTER.
HE ADDED THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT THE
PUBLIC SERVICE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTRIES
WILL BE COMBINED AND HEADED BY INCUMBENT PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS MINISTER KEBLE MUNN.

2. COMMENT: COOKE'S APPOINTMENT LAYS TO REST THE
POSSIBILITY THAT ARNOLD "SCREE" BERTRAM, PRESENTLY
MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, WOULD
BE GIVEN THE KEY EDUCATION PORTFOLIO (SEE REFTEL).
RATHER, COOKE'S SELECTION APPEARS TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS
THAT THE MODERATE FACTION OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL
PARTY (PNP) WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE APPOINTMENT
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TO THE SENSITIVE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO OF ANYONE AS CLOSE AS
HE IS TO THE PARTY'S RADICALS COOKE BRINGS TO THE JOB
EXPERIENCE (HE WAS EDUCATION MINISTER IN THE LAST
GOVERNMENT) AND POLITICAL CLOUT (HE IS ONE OF THE MORE
INFLUENTIAL MODERATES AND A MAN FULLY CAPABLE OF
PROTECTING HIMSELF IN ANY INFIGHTING.) WITH JAMAICA'S
TEACHERS ACTIVELY HOSTILE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE

ISSUE OF WAGES (SEE KINGSTON 3629), COOKE WILL NEED HIS SKILLS.

3. THE CHOICE OF MUNN TO HEAD THE PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY AS WELL AS THAT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MAY WELL BE DISHEARTENING TO JAMAICA'S GOVERNMENT SERVANTS. MUNN IS AMIABLE BUT LACKLUSTRE. HOWEVER WELL-LIKED HE MAY BE, HE IS UNLIKELY TO BRING EITHER NEW THOUGHT OR FRESH ENERGY TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE CHARGE. IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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